

Sage-Grouse Initiative (SGI)

A STRATEGIC APPROACH TO FARM BILL CONSERVATION PROGRAM DELIVERY



World-class Wildlife

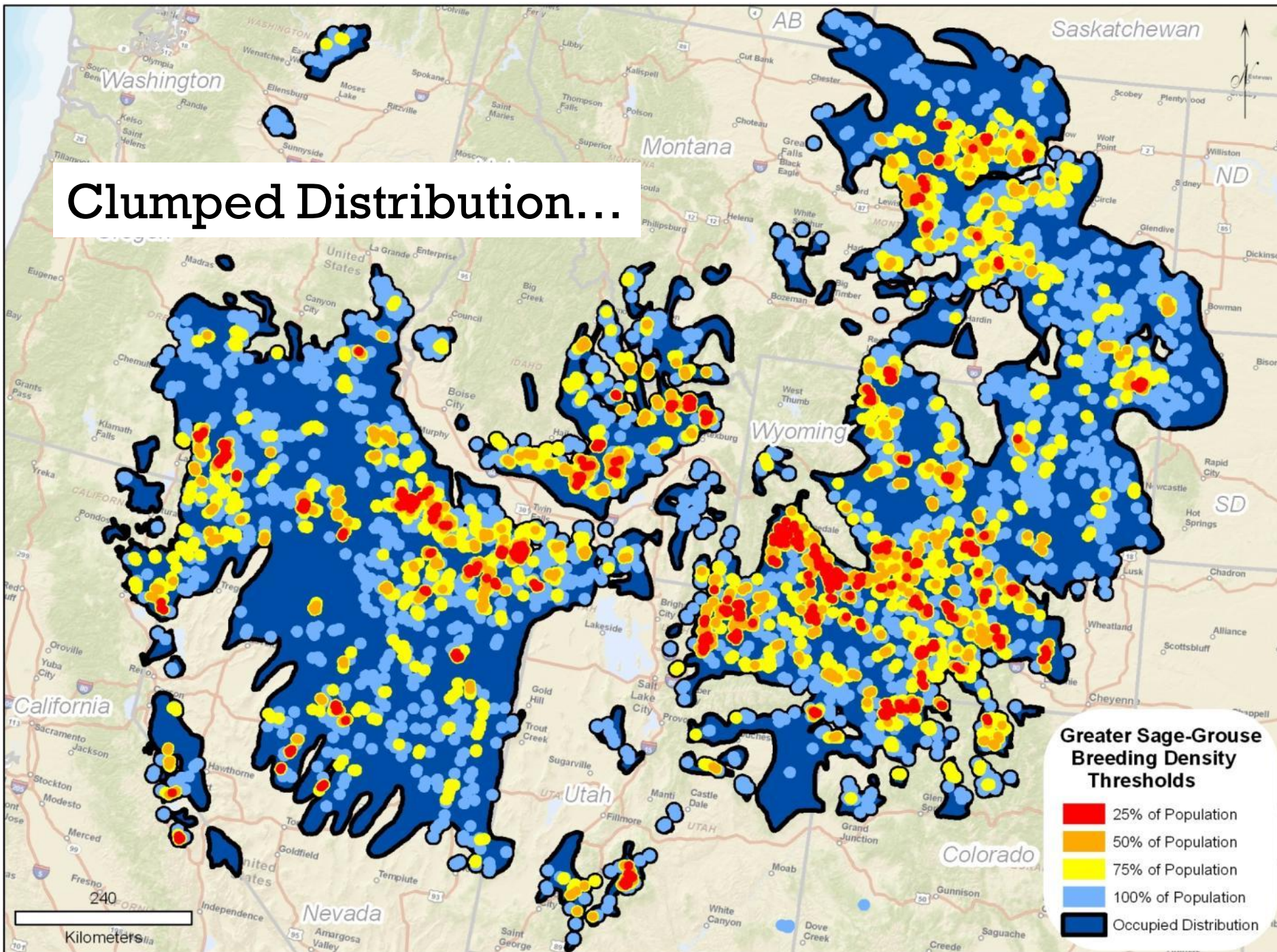


Rural Ways of Life

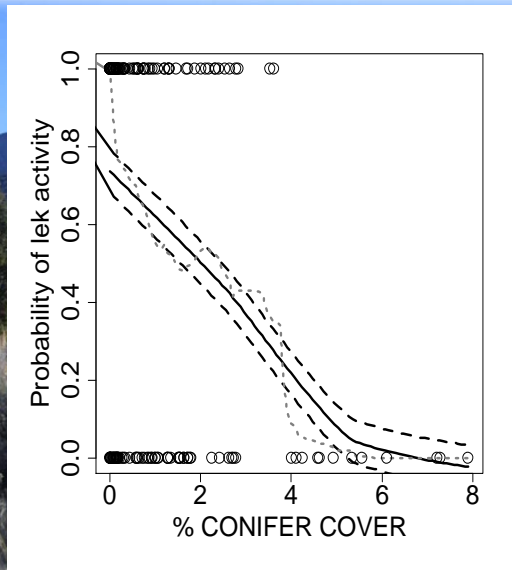
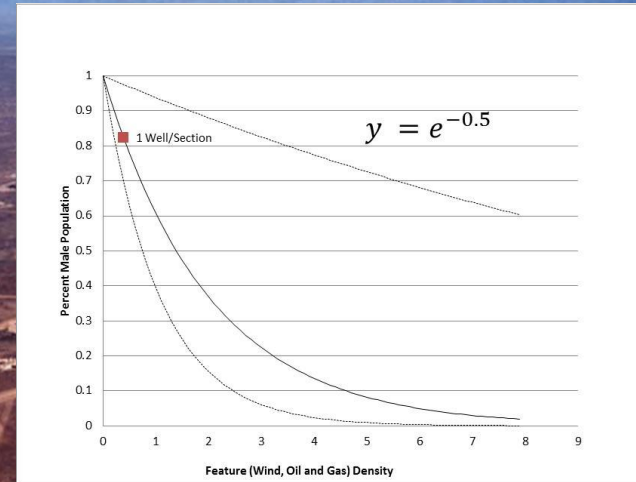
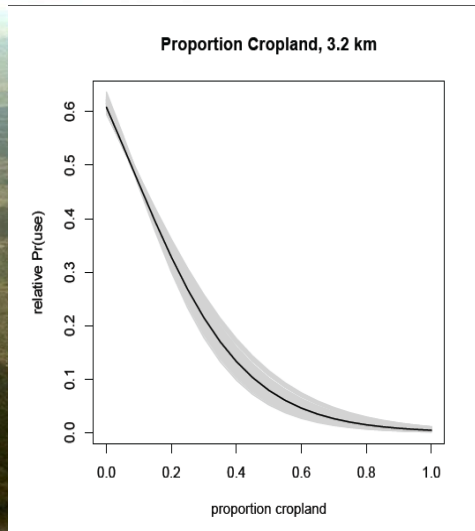
Tim Griffiths
National Coordinator

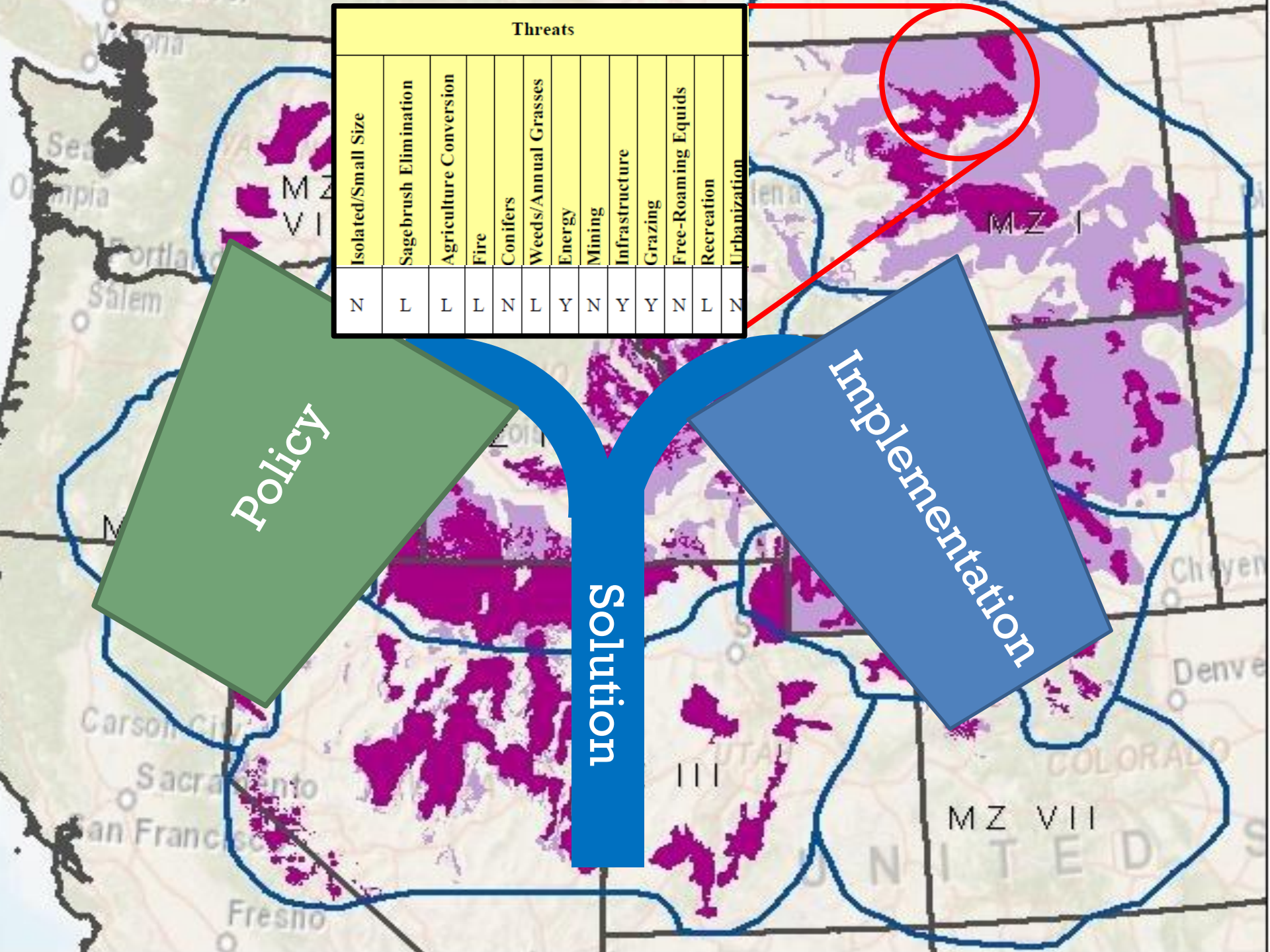
Dave Naugle
Science Advisor

Clumped Distribution...



Birds hate fragmentation



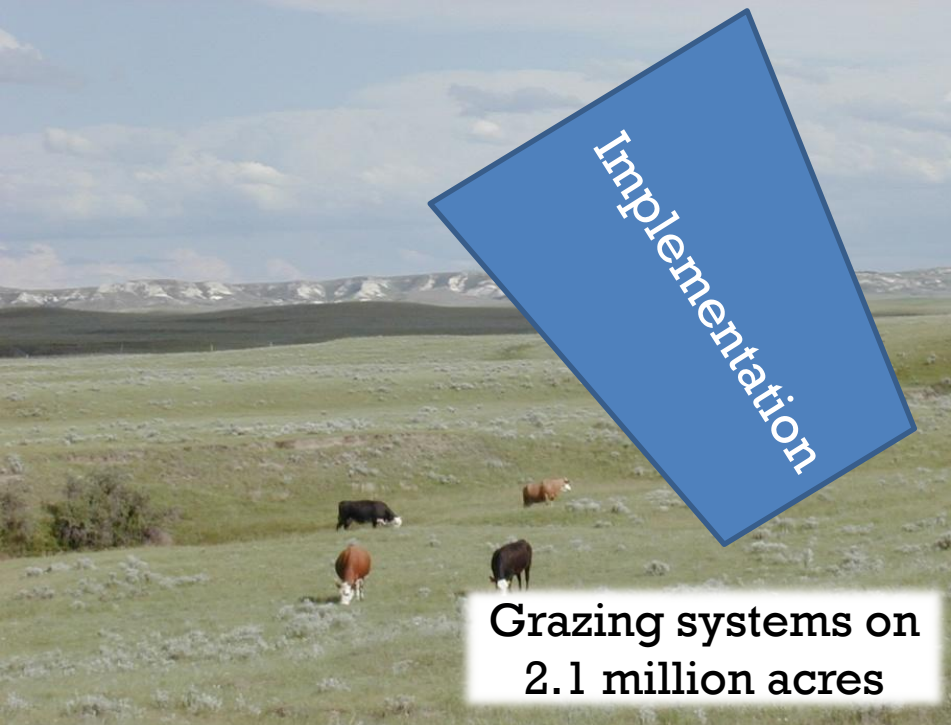


Threats												
Isolated/Small Size	Sagebrush Elimination	Agriculture Conversion	Fire	Conifers	Weeds/Annual Grasses	Energy	Mining	Infrastructure	Grazing	Free-Roaming Equids	Recreation	Urbanization
N	L	L	L	N	L	Y	N	Y	Y	N	L	N

Policy

Solution

Implementation



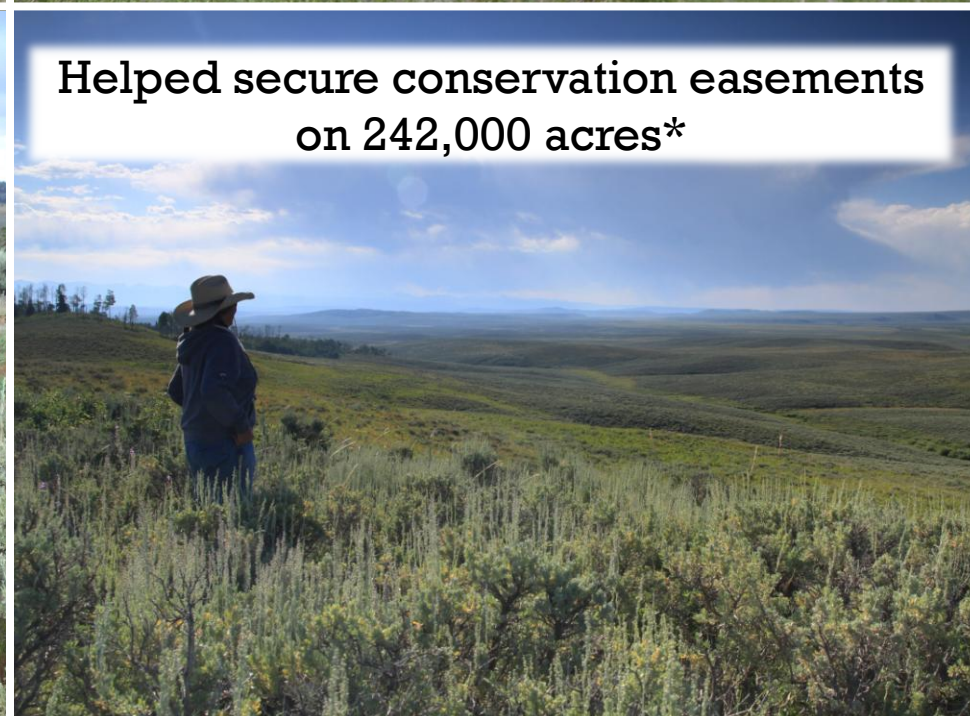
**Grazing systems on
2.1 million acres**



**Marked or moved 495 miles of
'high risk' fence**



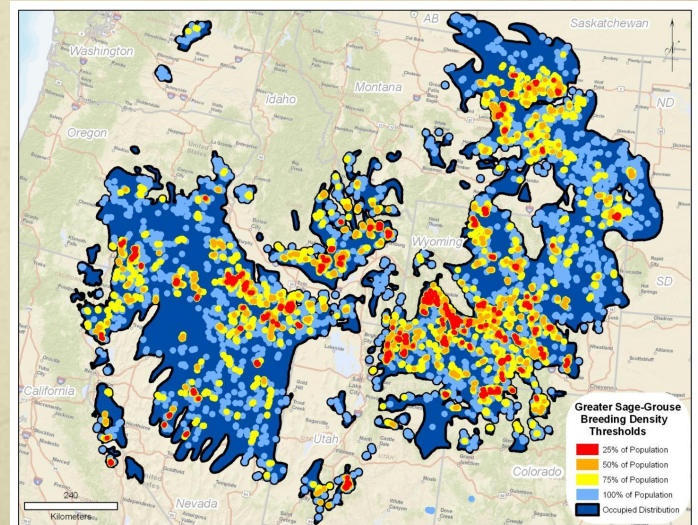
**Removed encroached conifers on
195,000 acres**



**Helped secure conservation easements
on 242,000 acres***

Sage Grouse Initiative

- Paradigm shift in at-risk species conservation that negates need for listing
 - Remove threats to sage-grouse and improve sustainability of working ranches
 - Implement enough of the right practices in the right places to benefit populations
 - Use science to assess effectiveness, quantify benefits and adapt program delivery



Conference Report

- Conditioned 40 practices to ensure benefits to sage-grouse
- Provides '**certainty**' to landowners
- Enables producers to receive 'credit' for voluntary conservation





United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240

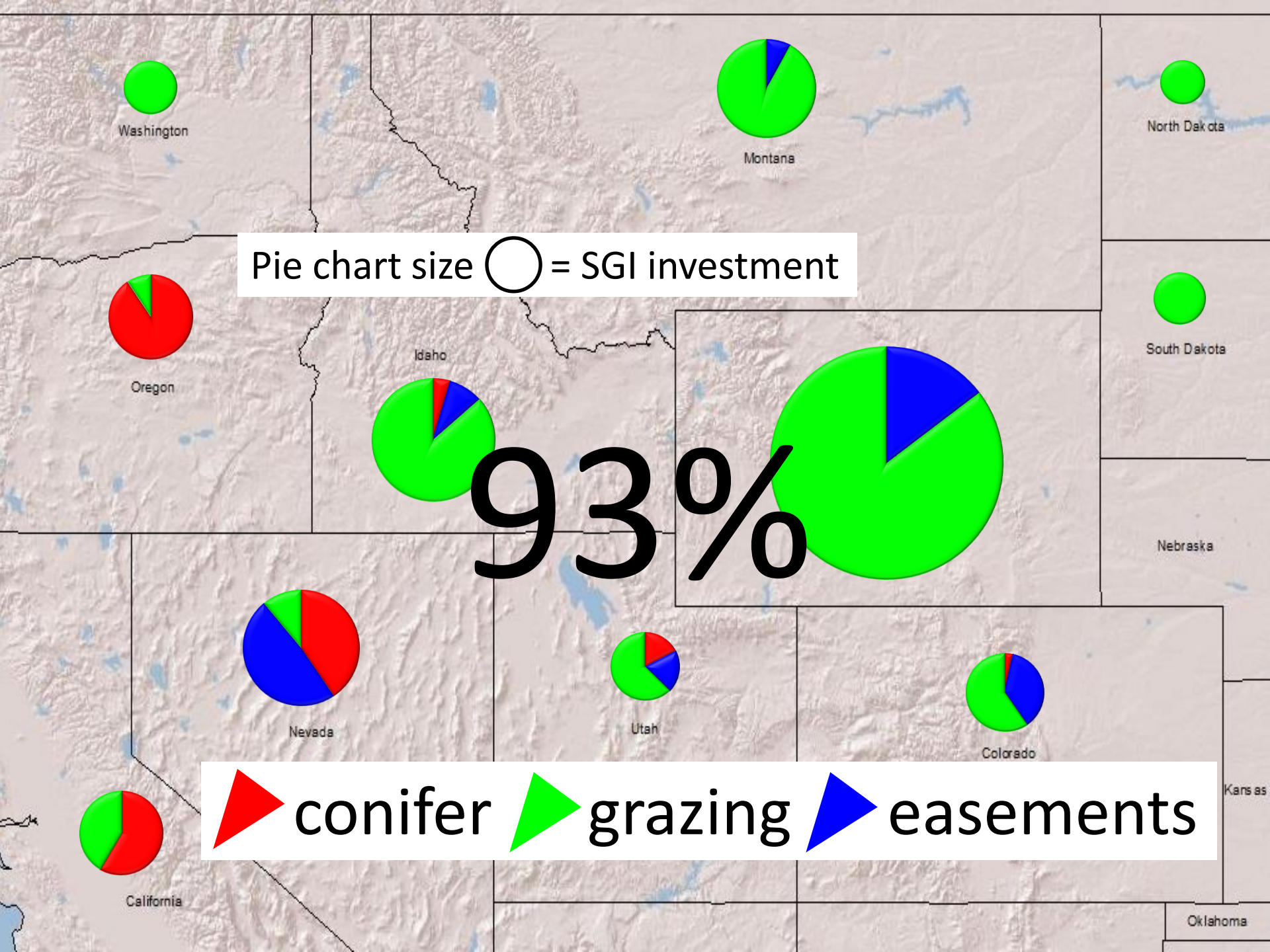


AUG - 3 2012

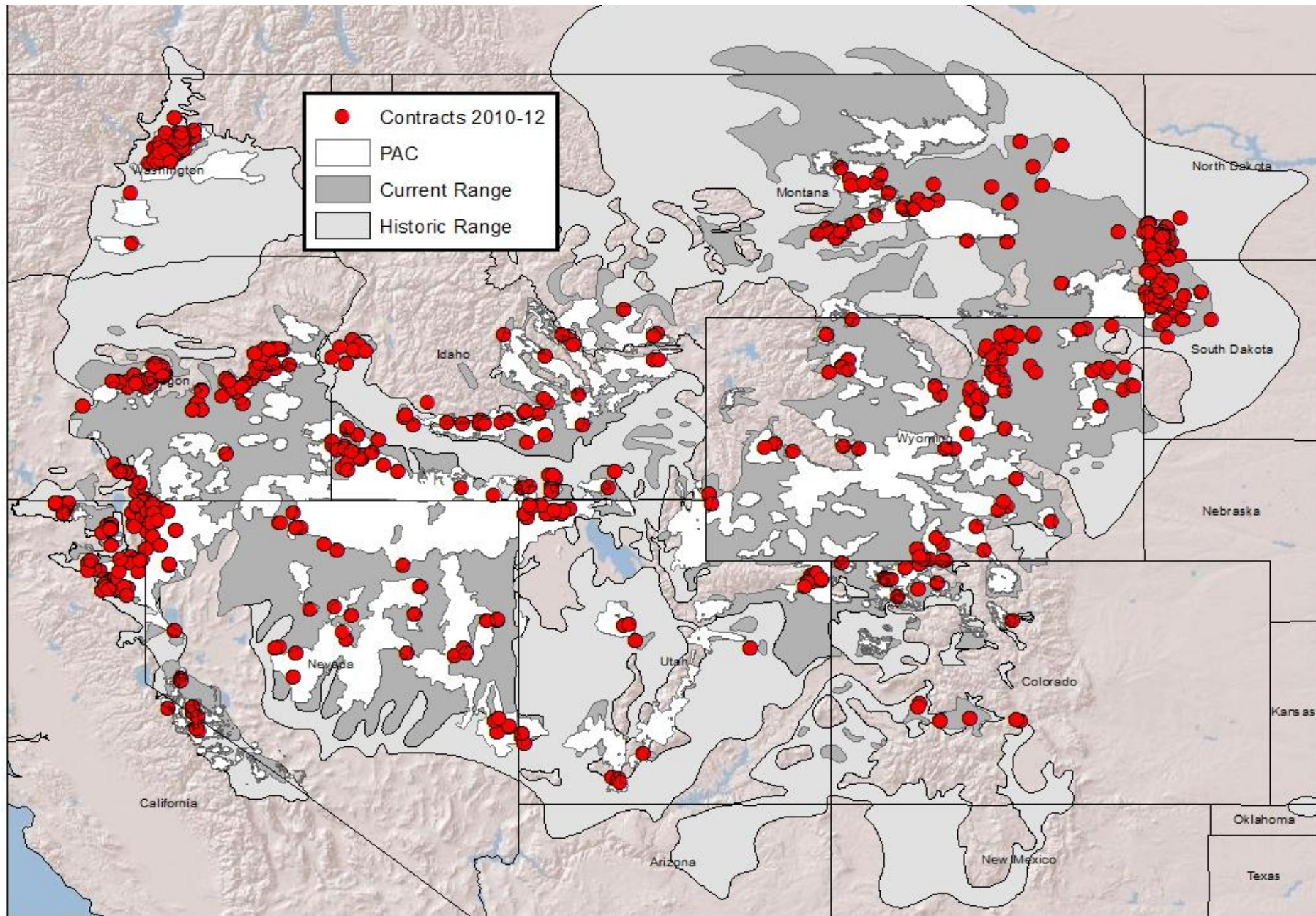
In Reply Refer To:
FWS/AES/52307

“In the event that any of the species are listed, the Service is committed to validating the conference report and opinions as biological opinions for NRCS under section 7 of the ESA, and exempting any incidental take as described in the biological opinions associated with implementing the specified conservation practices.”

The purpose of this letter is to describe the Service's approach to candidate conservation under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and predictability for landowners who participate in WLFW. As referenced in your letter, the Service has recently completed conference opinions for three of the four candidate species involved in WLFW, including lesser prairie chicken, the eastern



All SGI WHIP and EQIP Contracts 2010-2012



Investment (millions)

States SGI

\$120

\$90

\$60

\$30

\$0

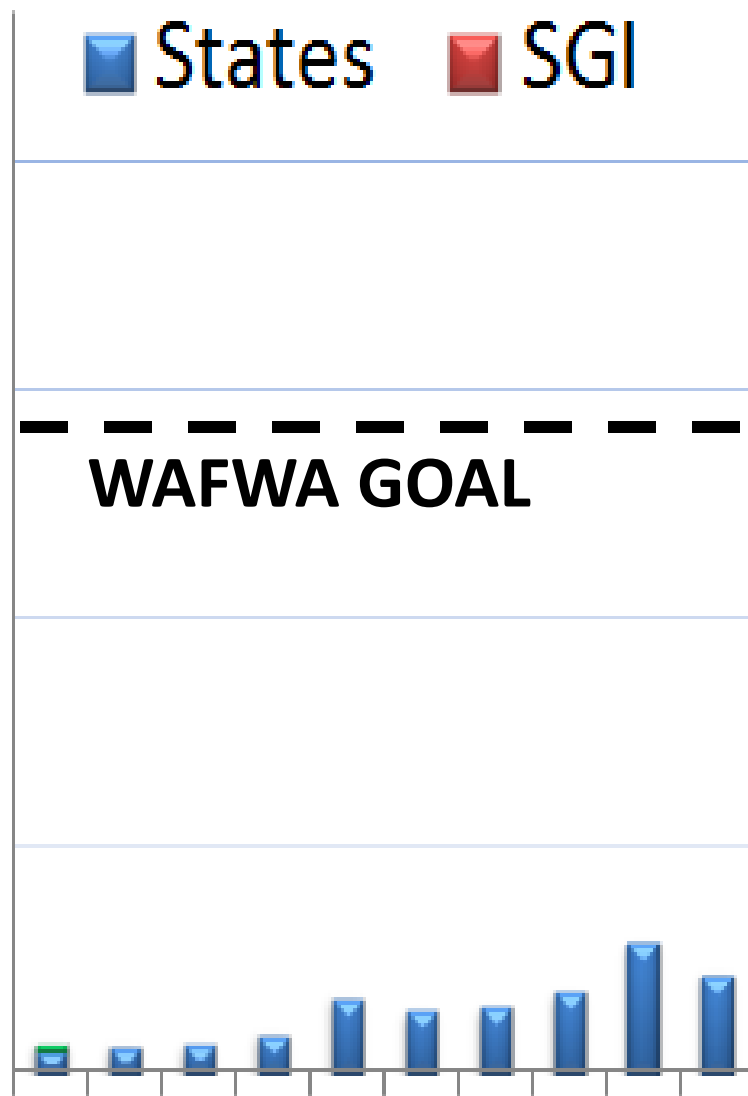
WAFWA GOAL

2000

2005

2010

Year



Effects of Conifer Encroachment on Grouse

What do we know, what don't we know?

- Trees outcompete sagebrush, grasses & forbs = direct habitat loss
- Evidence of avoidance, or reduced use
(Freese 2009; Doherty et al. 2008, 2010; Casazza et al. 2011)
- Males on leks doubled after PJ removal
(Commons et al. 1999)



Phases of Woodland Succession

Phase I (early)



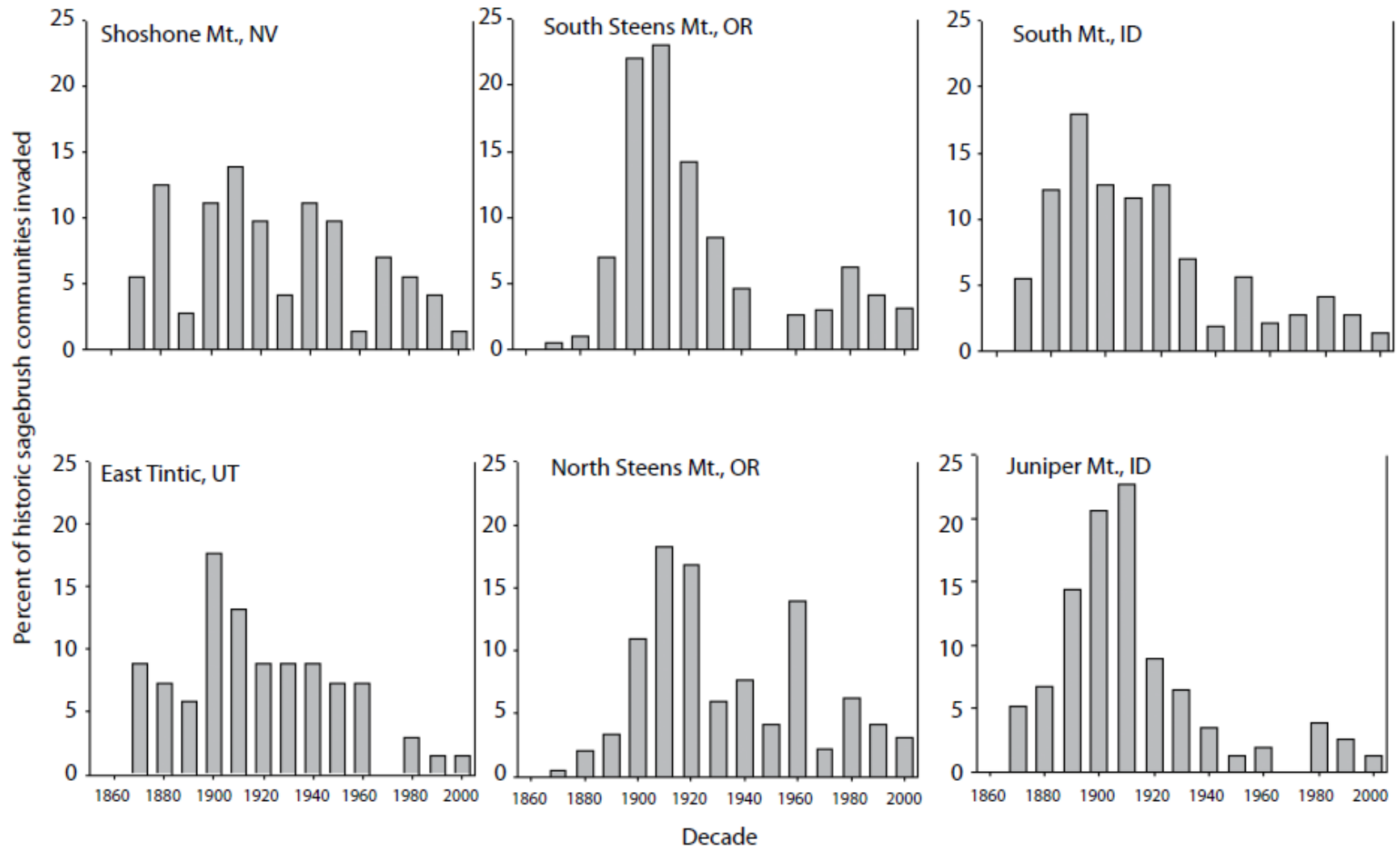
Phase II (mid)



Phase III (late)

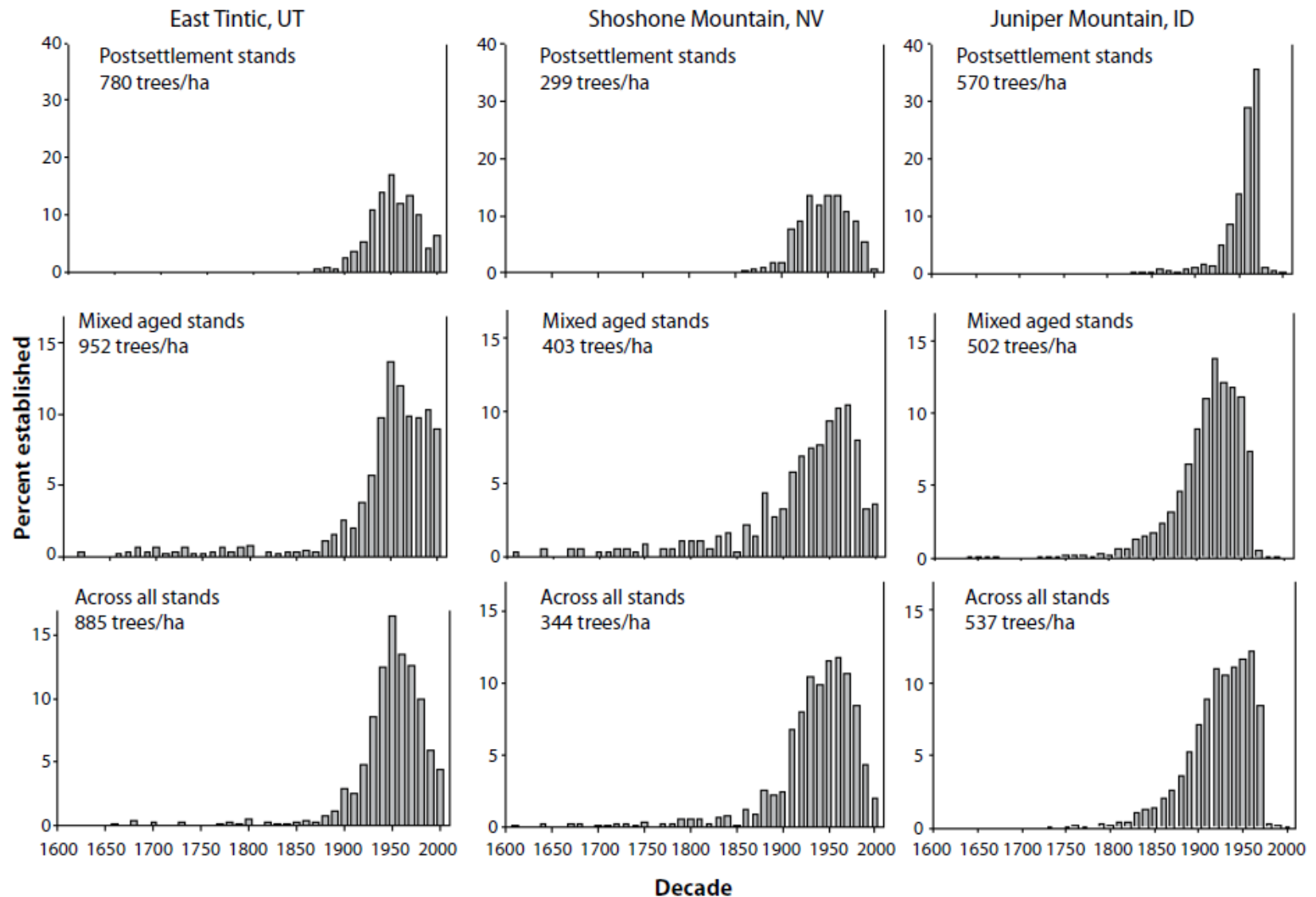


Proportion of encroachment into historic sagebrush sites by decade



By 1920, 50-75% of sites had been invaded

Rates of tree establishment by decade



Rate of establishment peaked in the mid 20th century and has declined since



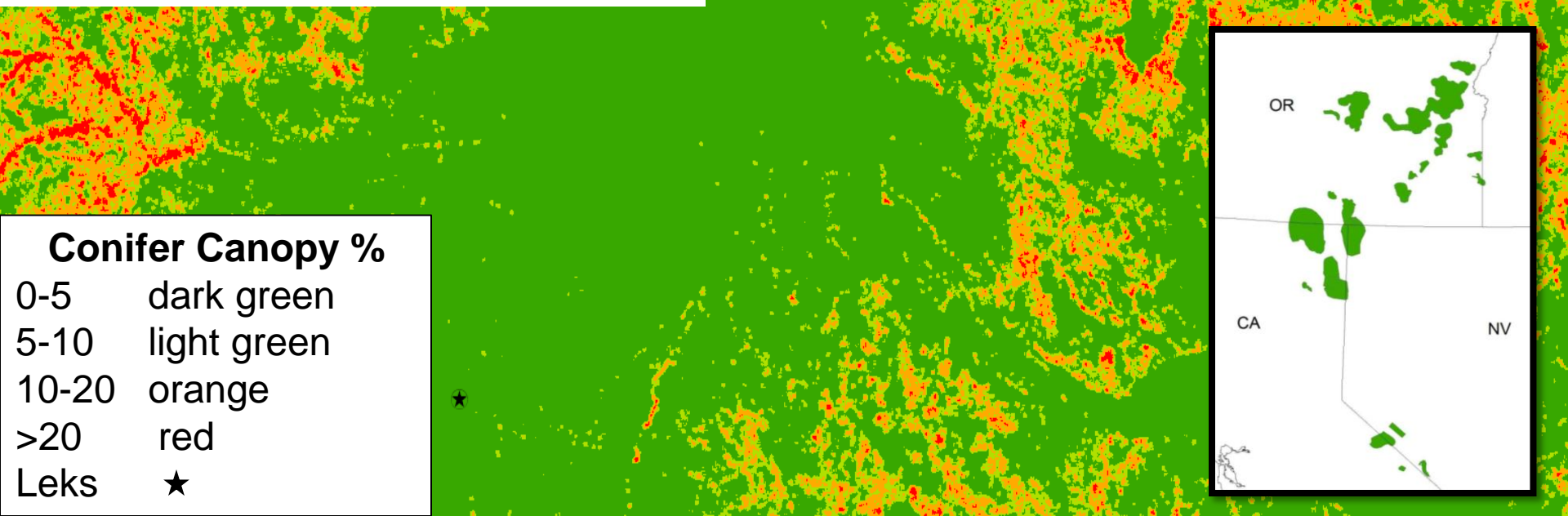
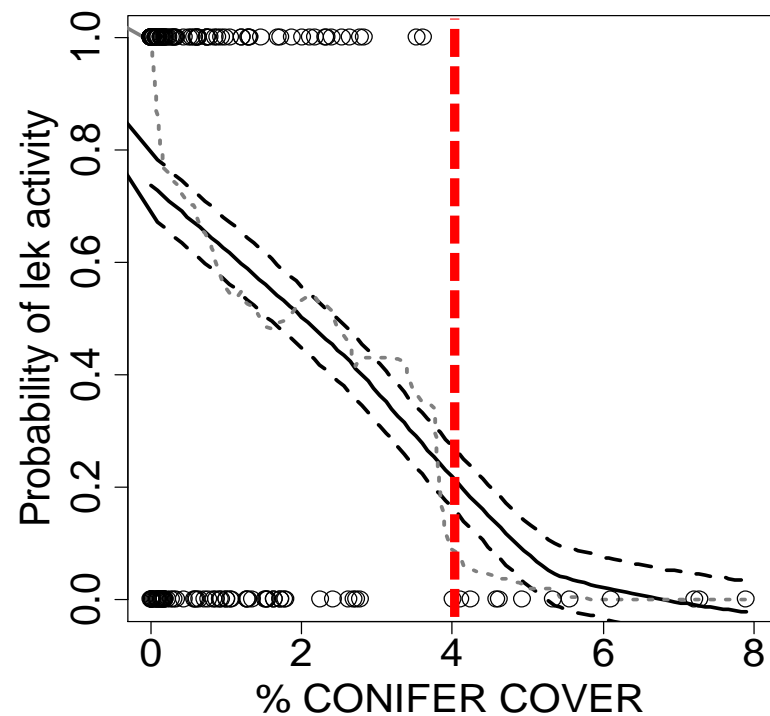
Now is the time to fix this problem

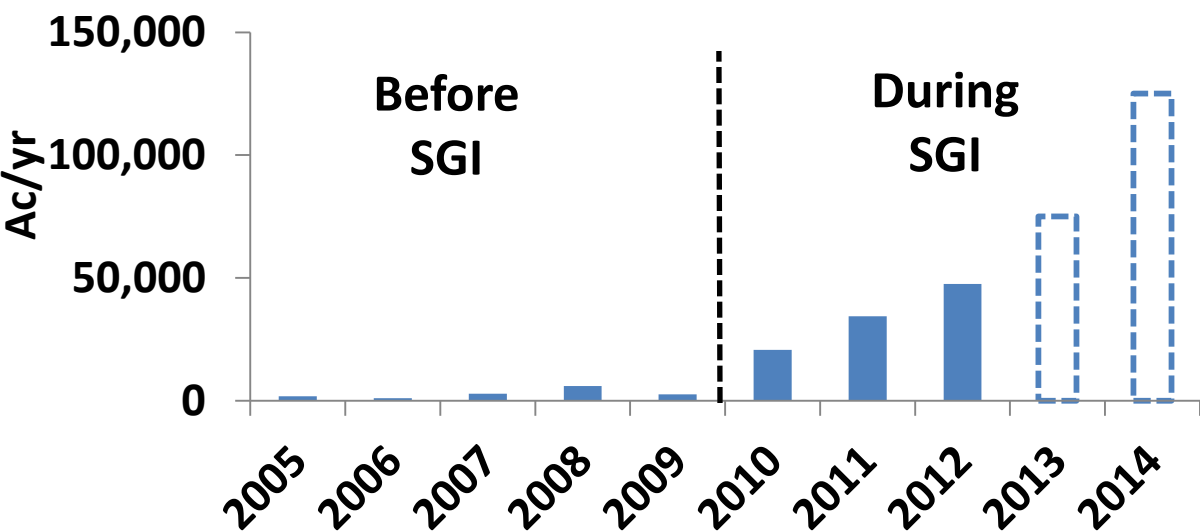
- Amount of Phase III today is 20% of total
- Expected to be 75% of total in next 30-50 years
- 200,000 ac crossing threshold to Phase III per year in Great Basin



Photo credits: BLM-Prineville District

(Miller et al. 2008)





Before



After



OREGON

Planned Implementation

- 875,000 ac Phase I & II within 3 mi of leks
- >102,000 ac already treated

Sustained Investment

- 773,000 ac left @ \$100/ac = \$77M
- Over 10 years = \$7.7 M/yr
- Current NRCS investment = \$4M/yr
- Partner investment needed = \$3.7M/yr

Shared Vision

What's good for rangelands, is good for grouse



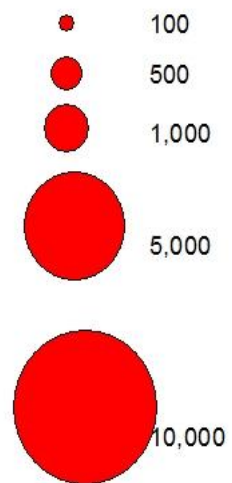
Phase I to III = 60% ↓ in AUMs of forage

Decreases ranch income stream by a third

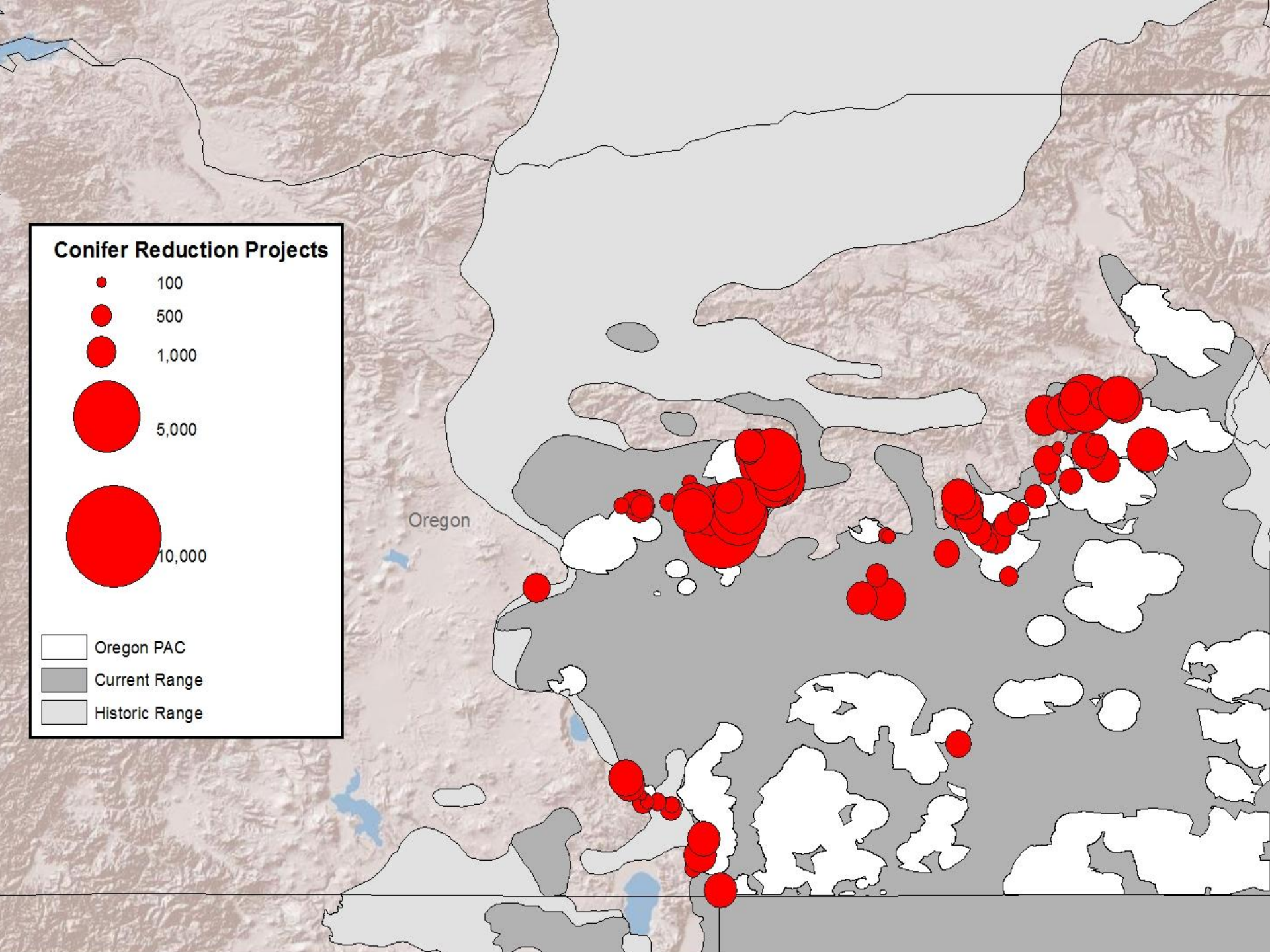
Ranchers can only afford to invest so much

Mutual benefits make beautiful public/private partnership

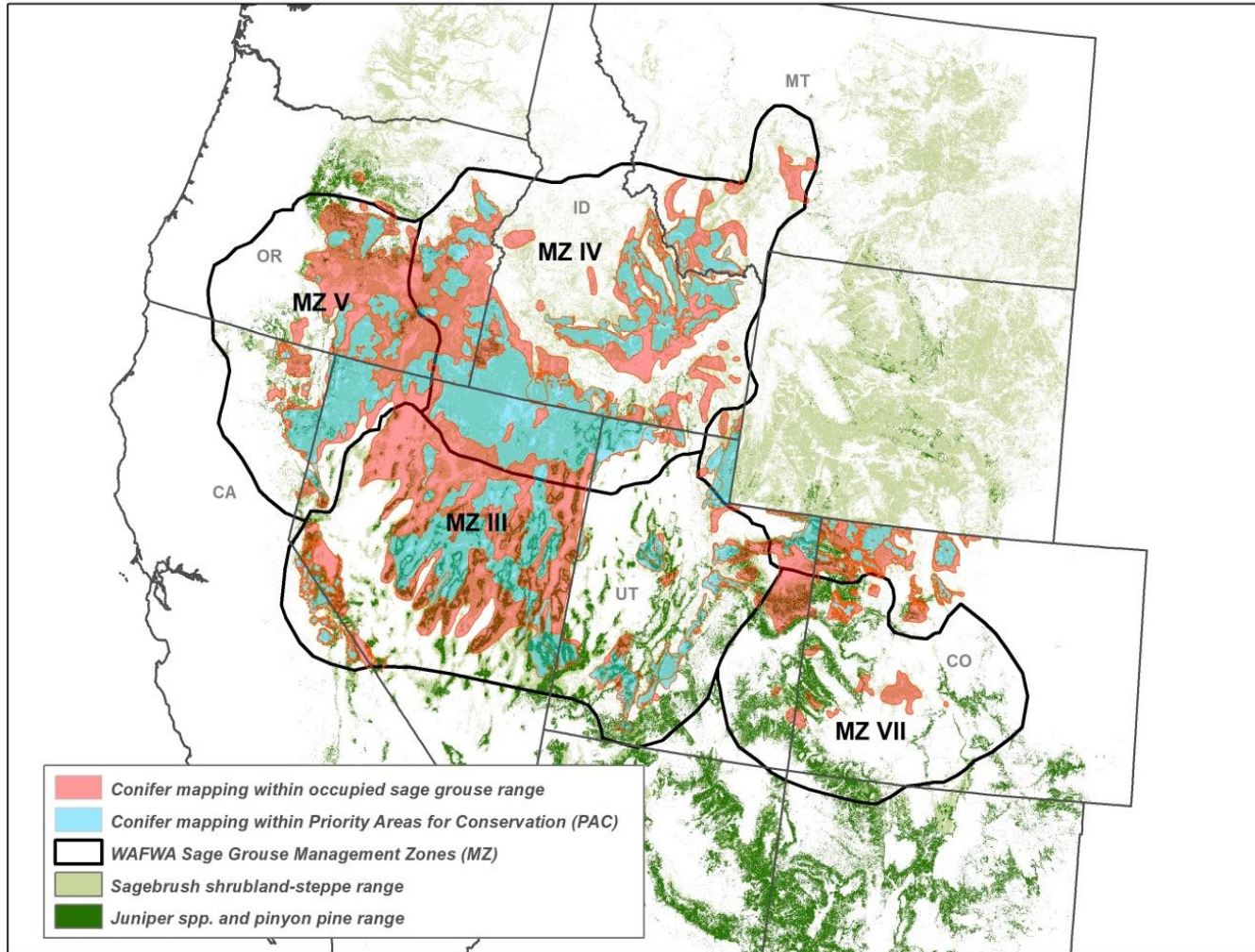
Conifer Reduction Projects



Oregon



Sage-grouse hate trees: A range-wide solution for increasing bird benefits through accelerated conifer removal

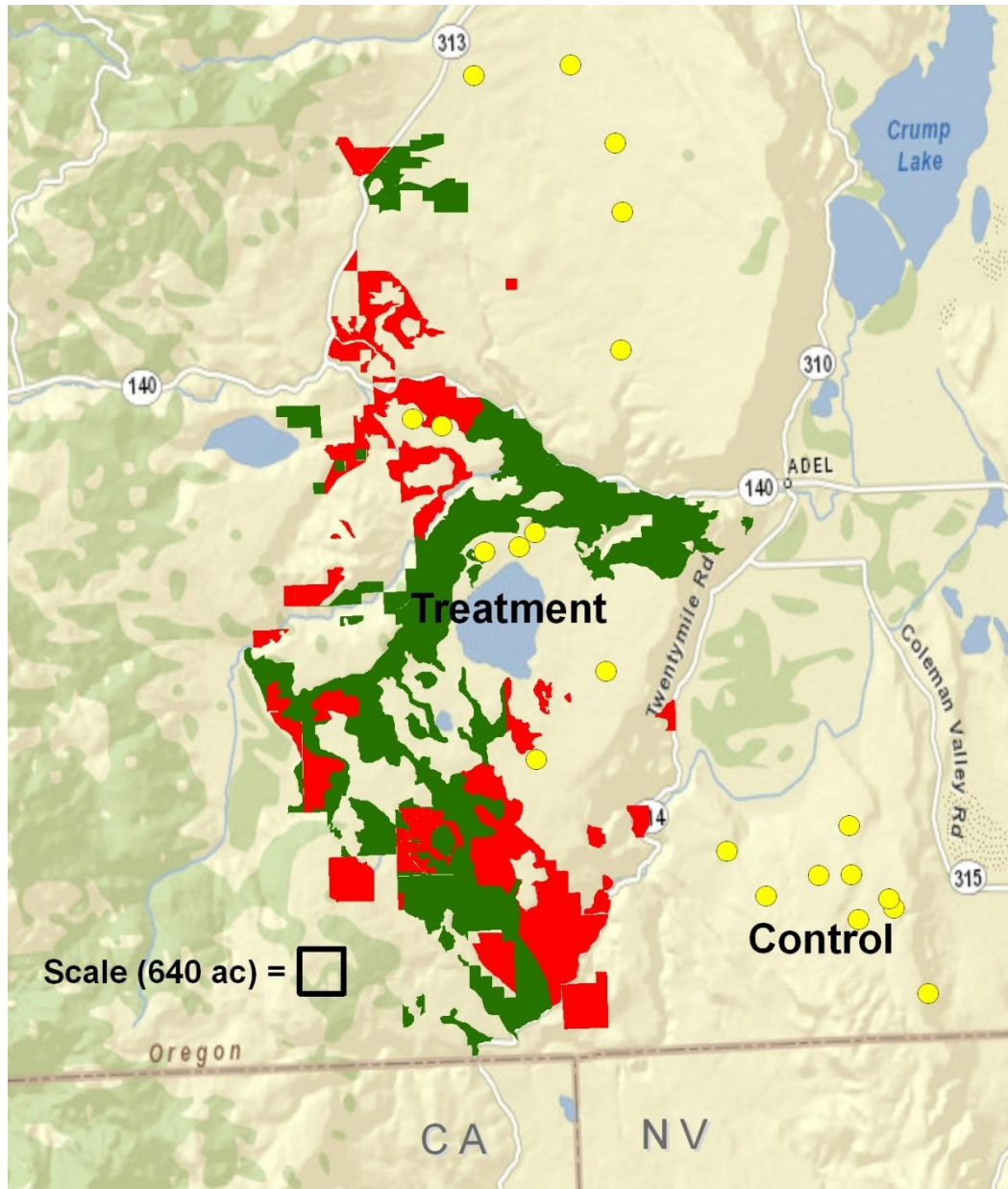


State	Status	Acres
CA	PAC	2.1
	Non PAC	1.1
CO	PAC	2.4
	Non PAC	6.3
ID	PAC	9.8
	Non PAC	7.1
MT	PAC	1.4
	Non PAC	2.2
NV	PAC	20.4
	Non PAC	21.4
OR	PAC	6.6
	Non PAC	12.5
UT	PAC	7.5
	Non PAC	4.2

Proposed acres (millions) of conifer mapping by state within PAC and non-PAC areas.



Quantifying Bird Response to Conifer Removal

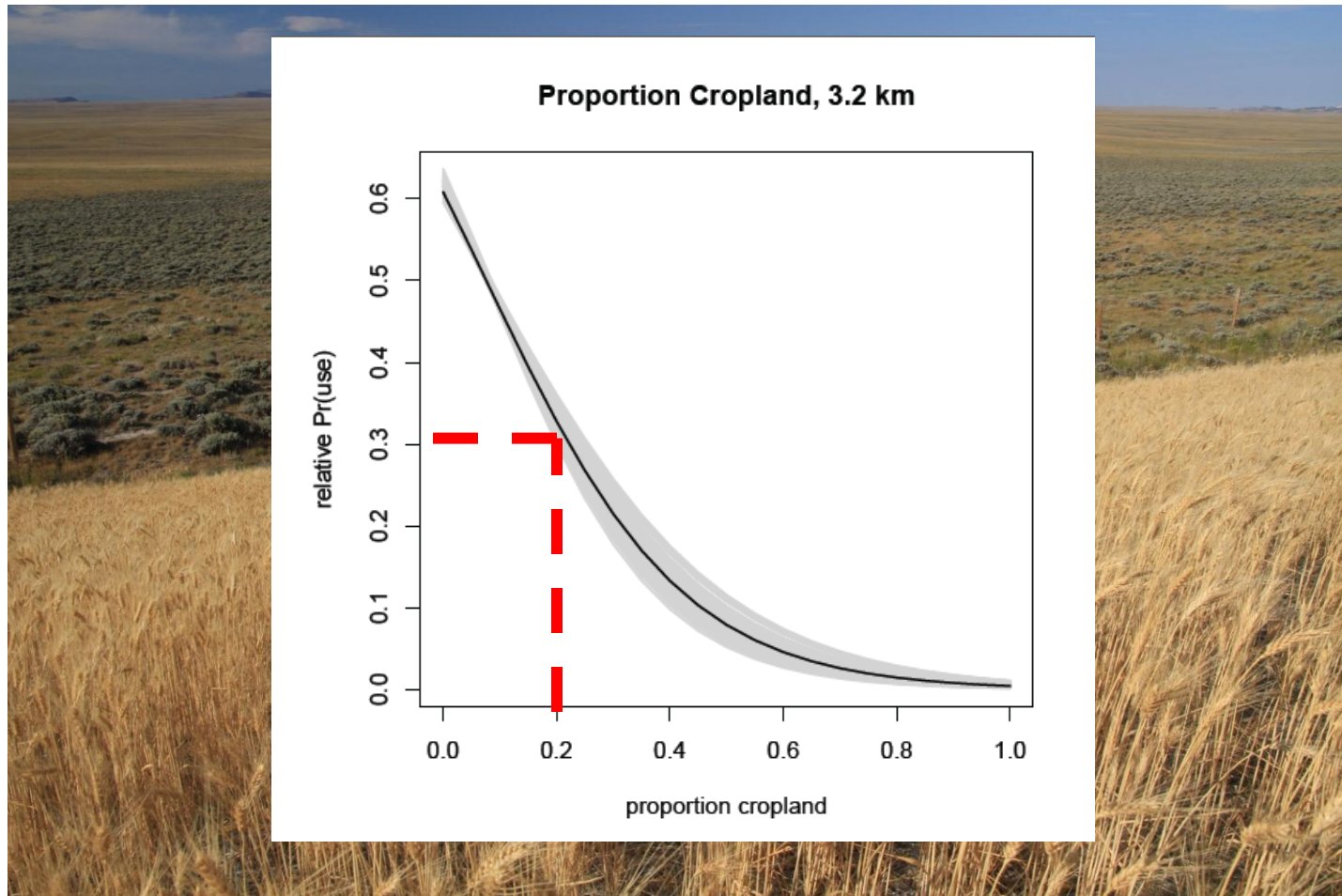


- 100,000 ac study area
- 80 birds on air
- BLM treating 25,000 ac
- SGI treating 7,500 ac



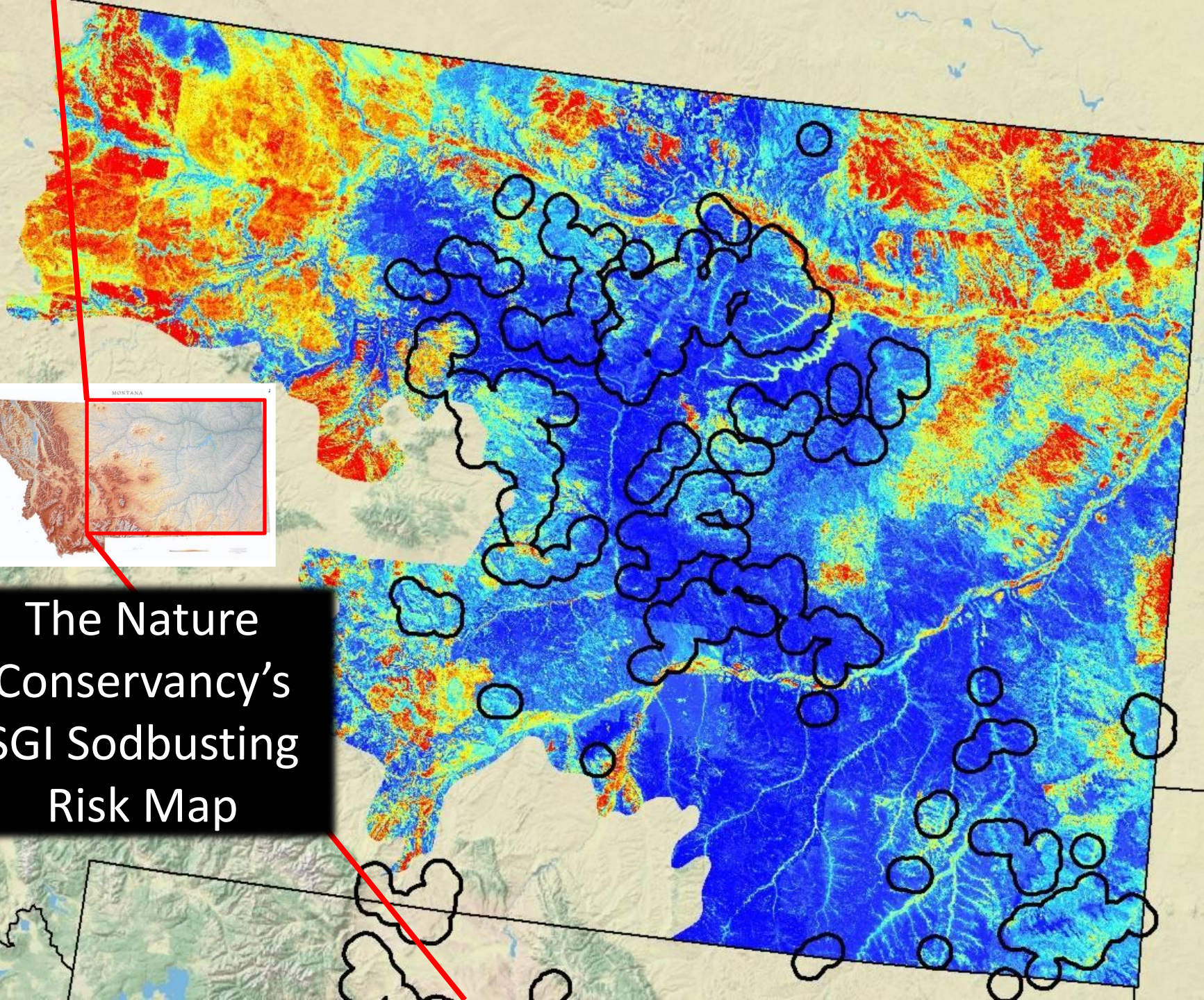
Job # 1

Stop the bleeding by keeping ranchers in business

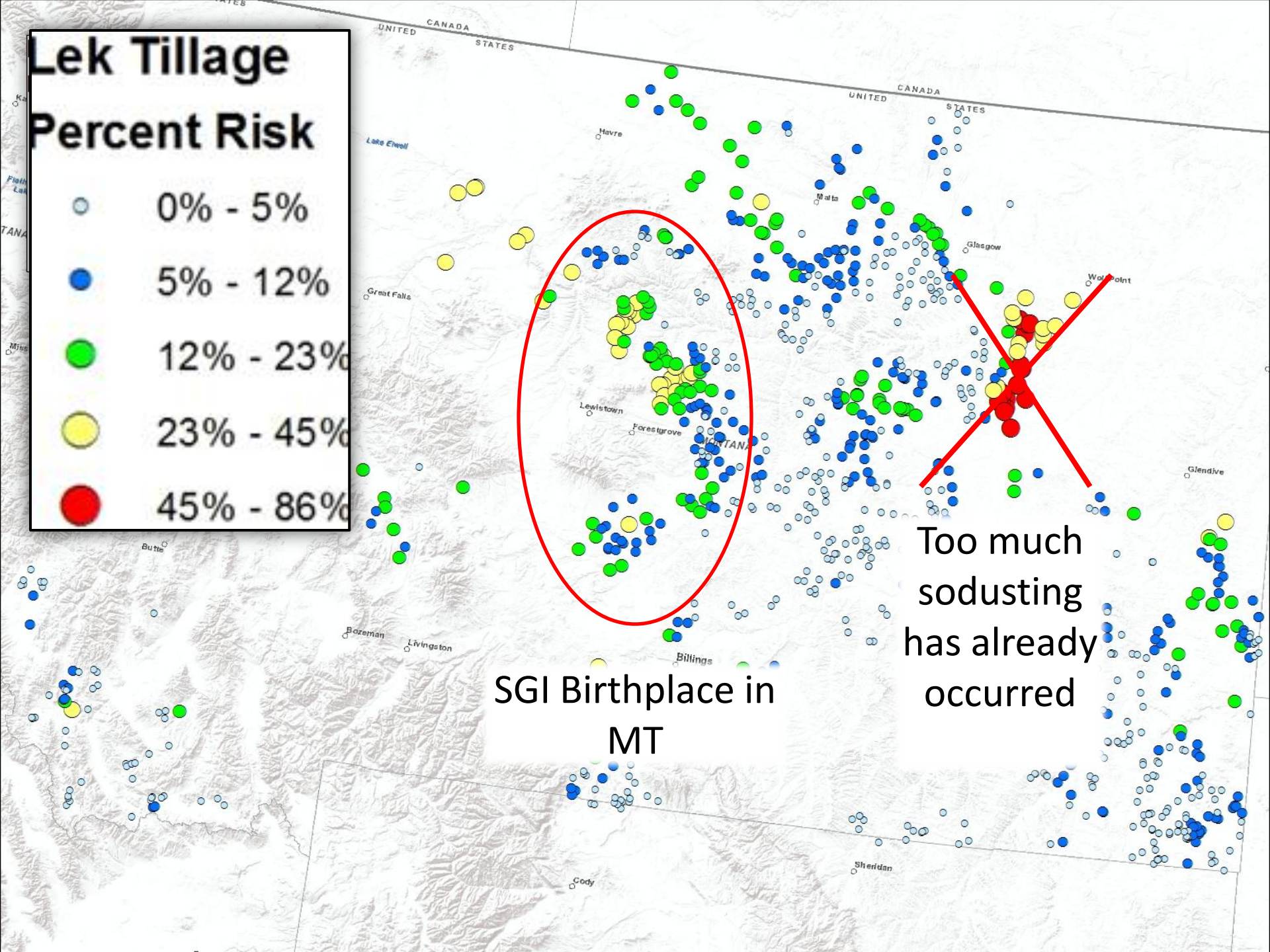




The Nature
Conservancy's
SGI Sodbusting
Risk Map



Lek Tillage Percent Risk



SGI Birthplace in
MT

Too much
sodusting
has already
occurred

*Stop the bleeding, **make more birds***



8% increase in
nest success



equates to 10% increase in
population growth

Taylor, Naugle and Mills BLM Report 2011



Population Ecology

Managing Multiple Vital Rates to Maximize Greater Sage-Grouse Population Growth

REBECCA L. TAYLOR,^{1,2} *Wildlife Biology Program, College of Forestry and Conservation, University of Montana, 32 Campus Drive, Missoula, MT 59812, USA*

BRETT L. WALKER,³ *Wildlife Biology Program, College of Forestry and Conservation, University of Montana, 32 Campus Drive, Missoula, MT 59812, USA*

DAVID E. NAUGLE, *Wildlife Biology Program, College of Forestry and Conservation, University of Montana, 32 Campus Drive, Missoula, MT 59812, USA*

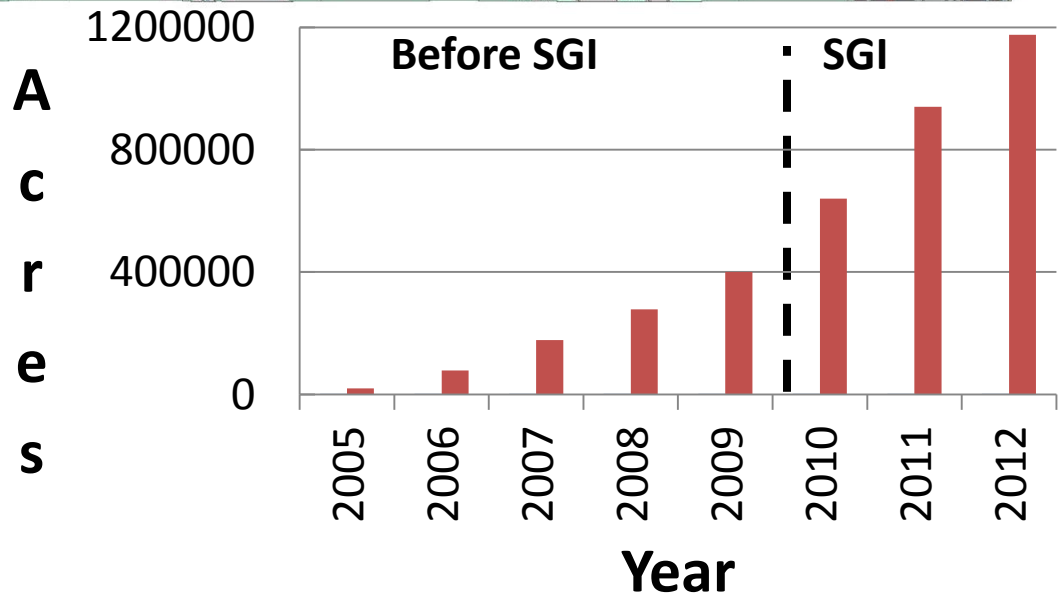
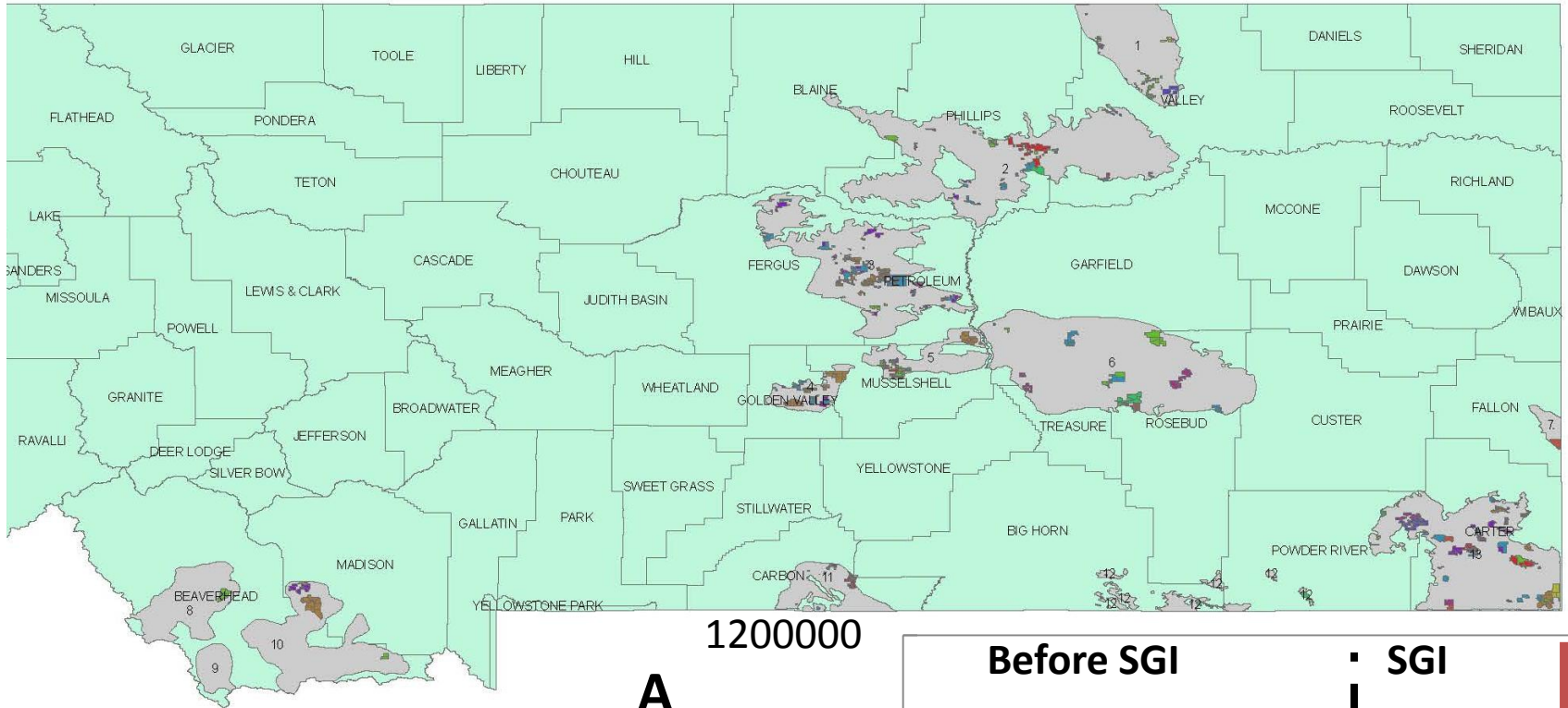
L. SCOTT MILLS, *Wildlife Biology Program, College of Forestry and Conservation, University of Montana, 32 Campus Drive, Missoula, MT 59812, USA*



4 years of applied grazing system

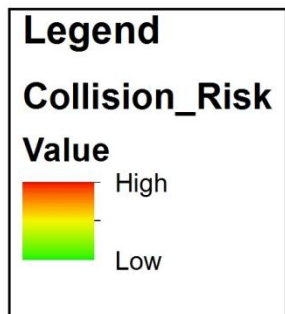
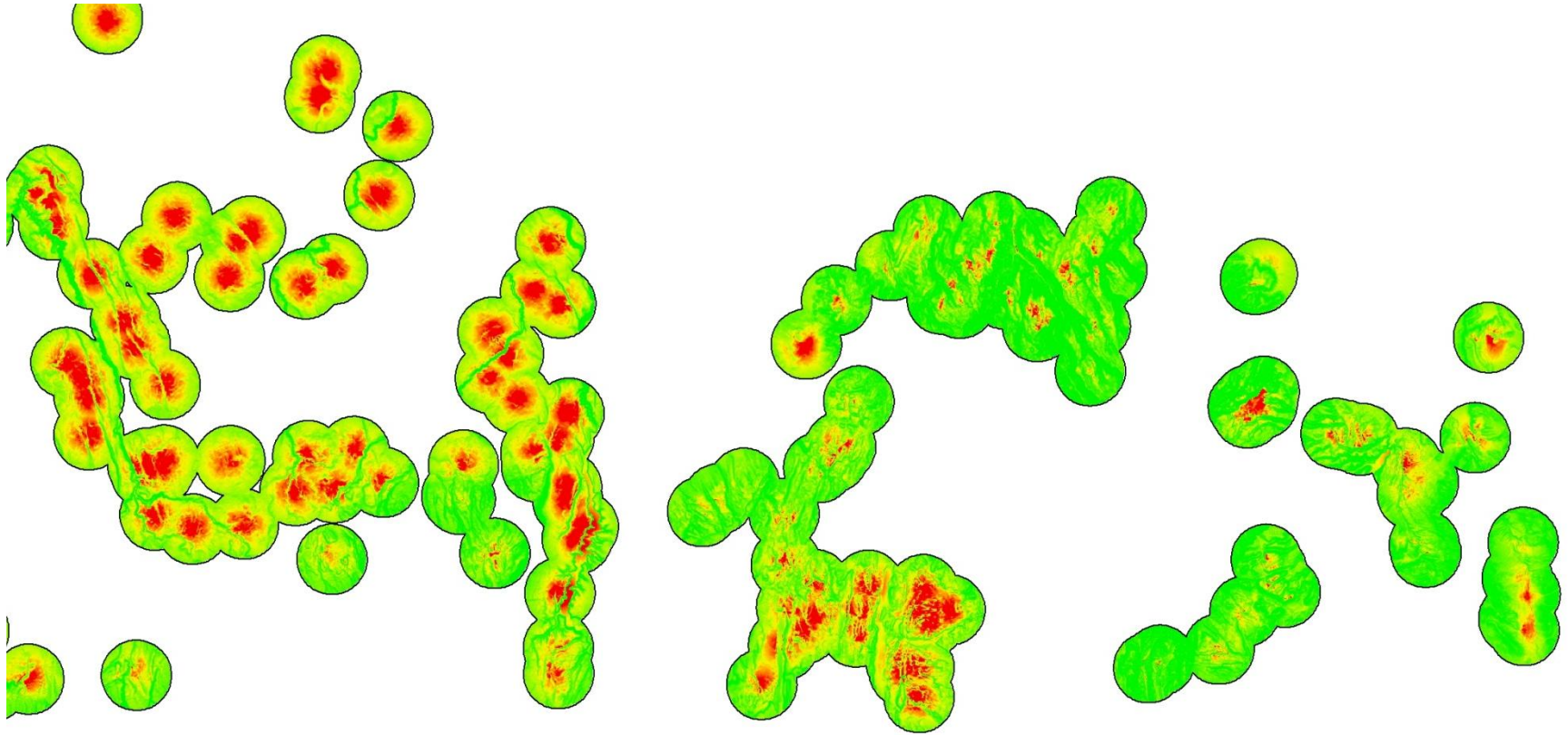


Montana Grazing Systems 4x higher with SGI





New range wide fence marking tool



*Marking fence >1 collision is 11%
of area 465,600 ac within 3km of leks*



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

CEAP Conservation Insight
Conservation Effects Assessment Project

November 2012

Applying the Sage-Grouse Fence Collision Risk Tool to Reduce Bird Strikes

Summary Findings

- Fence collisions by sage-grouse can

Background

Bird collision with human structures is

grated conservation strategy reduces the
need to list the species under the Federal

Wildlife Society Bulletin, DOI: 10.1002/wsb.273

Tools and Technology

Mapping Sage-Grouse Fence-Collision Risk: Spatially Explicit Models for Targeting Conservation Implementation



BRYAN S. STEVENS,^{1,2} *Departments of Fish and Wildlife Sciences and Statistical Sciences, University of Idaho, P.O. Box 441136, Moscow, ID 83844, USA*

DAVID E. NAUGLE, *Wildlife Biology Program, University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812, USA*

BRIAN DENNIS, *Departments of Fish and Wildlife Sciences and Statistical Sciences, University of Idaho, P.O. Box 441136, Moscow, ID 83844, USA*

JOHN W. CONNELLY, *Idaho Department of Fish and Game, 1345 Barton Road, Pocatello, ID 83204, USA*

TIM GRIFFITHS, *United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 10 E. Babcock Street, Rossmore, MT 59718, USA*

KERRY P. REESE, *Department of Fish and Wildlife Sciences, University of Idaho, P.O. Box 441136, Moscow, ID 83844, USA*

Strength through partnerships



GREATER SAGE GROUSE SPRING MIGRATION



Joe Kiesecker



SASKATCHEWAN

MONTANA

Grasslands
National
Park

Grasslands
National
Park

Bitter
Creek

Harlem

Malta

Fort Belknap
Indian
Reservation

Fort Peck
Indian
Reservation

Glasgow

Montana Glaciated
Plains

C.M. Russell
National Wildlife Refuge

Conservation Status

- Conservation Easements
- Matador Ranch
- Grassbank Participants
- Potential Projects

Ownership

- Public/ Protected Lands
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- National Parks
- Private
- State Trust Lands
- Indian Reservations

0 2.5 5 10 Kilometers

0 2.5 5 10 Miles

Map created by A. Pearson 1/28/11
Sage Grouse Data Source: J. Tack

The Nature Conservancy
Restoring Wildlife - Restoring Life

Sage Grouse Initiative

Wildlife Conservation Through Sustainable Agriculture

Search

CONTACT

HOME SAGE GROUSE 101 SGI SUCCESS TRACKER RESOURCES NEWS PARTNERS FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Partnership-based



A brand new approach...



SGI: Sharing the SGI Story

facebook

Email or Phone Password

Keep me logged in Forgot your password?

Log In



Sage Grouse Initiative is on Facebook.

To connect with Sage Grouse Initiative, sign up for Facebook today.

Sign Up Log In



Sage Grouse Initiative

1,108 likes · 145 talking about this

Like

Organization

SAGE GROUSE: Sage Grouse Initiative Achieves Wildlife Conservation Through Sustainable Ranching. Website: www.sagegrouseinitiative.com

About

A Landowner's Guide to Fencing

Practical Tips to Make Your Fences Wildlife Friendly

Photos

1,108

Likes

Visit us at: www.sagegrouseinitiative.com



Questions!